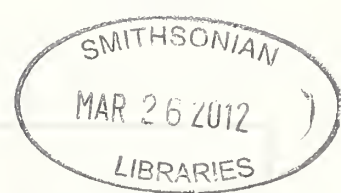


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Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 58

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Number 2

Carolina Bird Club 75th Anniversary Raleigh, NC

Lena Gallitano, Gail Lankford, David & Judy Smith

Renew CBC birding friendships and acquaintances from years past; walk in the footsteps of our founding members; join our cadre of young field trip leaders as we pass on the CBC legacy; reminisce about times past; and hear acclaimed author Scott Weidensaul.

Yes, it's all part of our plans for the Carolina Bird Club's 75th Anniversary celebration May 4-5, 2012. We hope you'll join us for the festivities as well as some great birding in the Triangle. You won't be disappointed in our field trip destinations, our programs or the birds!

Our meeting headquarters is the Four Points by Sheraton, 1200 Claren Circle, Morrisville, NC 27560 near Raleigh-Durham Airport. Heading east on I-40, take exit 284A and turn right onto Airport Blvd, then left on Claren Circle at the Bojangles. Heading west on I-40, take exit 284 and turn left onto Airport Blvd, then left on Claren Circle.

The CBC room rate is \$89 plus 12.75% tax. Room choices are one king or two queens. This rate includes a continental breakfast in our meeting room Friday and Saturday 6:00 - 8:00 a.m., and Sunday 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. The hotel restaurant, Spinners Bar and Grille, is open 6:00 - 10:00 a.m., and 5:00 - 11:00 p.m. Spinners offers a hot breakfast buffet for \$7.95 for those wanting more substantial fare. The hotel also offers

free high-speed internet, hair dryers, in-room coffee makers, indoor pool and fitness center. There are also numerous restaurants and fast-food eateries near the hotel.

The CBC room rate is guaranteed through April 20. Call 919-380-1221 to reserve your room. The cancelation date is April 26, or 7 days prior to your reservation. Check in is 3:00 p.m. For more information on the hotel, go to www.fourpoints.com/Raleigh.

The hotel will provide our buffet dinner on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$25, all inclusive. The menu will include non-vegetarian and vegetarian entrees, salad, vegetables, bread, and dessert. Pre-registration is required for the dinner.

After dinner Friday, be prepared for a look back across the decades, shared memories of birds and people, and no doubt a few tall tales as well! We'll start with a short retrospective of the CBC by decade beginning in the 1940s. You'll see some long-time familiar faces and no doubt be entertained with stories from the past. Clyde Smith will keep the evening moving as moderator. Come and reminisce or come and learn about the CBC history - either way, you can expect a memorable evening.

(Continued on page 2)

Raleigh Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday night we're excited to join with the Friends of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences to host Scott Weidensaul as speaker. Our venue will be the Museum's new Nature Research Center, which officially opens on April 20. The Nature Research Center is an exciting new addition to the Museum for all of North Carolina's citizens. We hope you will join us to learn more about the Center and enjoy the evening activities.

The Museum partnered with the CBC to bring Scott Weidensaul to Raleigh for our meeting. For CBC participants, 150 tickets will be reserved and are included in your registration fee. They will be available until April 20, so your registration date is important if you plan to attend Scott's talk. Tickets are also being sold to help defray costs, so if you register after April 20, we cannot guarantee a free ticket to Scott's talk.

Triangle birding groups will host a dessert social and Scott Weidensaul book signing beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Nature Research Center. The social will be a private event for members of CBC. The Center will be dedicated to our event for the evening to allow time to explore before the doors open to Friends of the Museum who have purchased tickets to attend Scott's talk. The Museum will have Scott's books for sale. You're also invited to bring your own books for Scott to sign.

Doors will open at 7:15 to the public who have purchased tickets. Scott's talk, *Living on the Wind: The Miracle of Bird Migration* will begin at 8:00.

We're delighted that the Museum of Natural Sciences has joined with us for our evening event, and we hope you'll join us to experience this new Center and the evening activities.

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (free admission) features nine different exhibit halls that show the diversity and depth of the state's natural habitats. From the coast to the mountains, birds are featured prominently throughout the exhibits. This is the perfect place to spend a morning or afternoon during your time in Raleigh. A featured activity for the weekend will be a Museum-based scavenger hunt – we'll

provide the checklist, you find the birds.

Please read carefully all the details to register for this weekend. Some of our arrangements have specific cut-off dates for planning purposes. And as always, the early bird gets the worm so don't delay, register today!



Meeting Odds and Ends

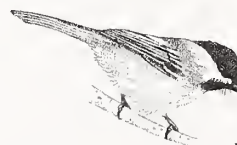
Plan to carpool as much as possible since we will be using busy highways to reach our field trip destinations.

Unless otherwise noted, all field trips depart from the host hotel. Availability of restrooms, and food for all-day trips, are noted in the field trip descriptions.

Scavenger Hunt Rules

This exciting activity is a first for a CBC meeting!

- Checklists and directions to the Museum and parking will be available at registration.
- Honor system for reporting only the birds you personally observe at the Museum.
- Listed birds can be from the diorama exhibits or murals.
- If a bird is not on the checklist, write in the name of the bird you saw.
- Turn in your checklist at the Saturday night social for verification.
- A prize will be awarded to the person with the most sightings at the end of the evening program.



Lynne Mattocks
Lucas

CBC Raleigh Meeting Field Trip Schedule

Friday, May 4, 2012

Morning Half-Day Trips

- Trip 1 - Eno River State Park – 7:30am
- Trip 2 - Mid-Pines Road & Historic Yates Mill County Park – 7:15am
- Trip 3 - Bird Banding @ Prairie Ridge Ecostation for Wildlife & Learning – 7:30am
- Trip 4 - Lake Crabtree County Park & William B. Umstead State Park – 7:45am
- Trip 5 - Discovering Durham's Birdy Secrets – 7:45am

Afternoon Half-Day Trips

- Trip 6 - Birding in the Footsteps of CBC Founders – 1:00pm
- Trip 7 - Mason Farm Biological Reserve – 1:00pm
- Trip 8 - NC Museum of Art Park and Audubon Gallery – 1:00pm
- Trip 9 - Swift Creek Greenway & Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve – 1:00pm
- Trip 10 - Bird Collections, Museum of Natural Sciences – 1:00pm

All Day Trips

- Trip 11 - Howell Woods – 6:45am
- Trip 12 - Jordan Lake Tour – 7:00am
- Trip 13 - Falls Lake Tour – 7:00am
- Trip 14 - Birds, Botany and Butterflies – 7:15am

Evening Program:

6:30pm - Buffet Dinner

Four Points by Sheraton Hotel

7:30pm – Exploring Our Past

Clyde Smith, Moderator

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Morning Half-Day Trips

- Trip 15 - Mason Farm Biological Reserve – 7:30am
- Trip 16 - Stagecoach Road Waterfowl Impoundments – 7:15am
- Trip 17 - Swift Creek Greenway & Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve – 7:30am
- Trip 18 - Duke Forest – 7:30am
- Trip 19 - Bolin Creek Greenway – 7:30am

Afternoon Half-Day Trips

- Trip 20 - Schenk Forest & William B. Umstead State Park – 1:00pm
- Trip 21 - Eno River State Park – 1:00pm
- Trip 22 - Birds in Art through the Ages and Around the World, Museum of Art – 1:00pm
- Trip 23 - Mid-Pines Road & Historic Yates Mill County Park – 1:00pm
- Trip 24 - Bond Park – 1:00pm

All Day Trips

- Trip 25 - Howell Woods – 6:45am
- Trip 26 - Jordan Lake Tour – 7:00am
- Trip 27 - Falls Lake Tour – 7:00am
- Trip 28 - Raven Rock Park – 7:00am
- Trip 29 - Jordan Lake for Eagles – by Canoe & Kayak – 7:45am

Evening Program:

6:30 – 8:00pm – Dessert Social and Meet the

Speaker, Scott Weidensaul – Museum of Natural Sciences, Nature Research Center

8:00pm – Scott Weidensaul – Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds

Additional details on many field trips can be found at these Web sites:

North Carolina Birding Trail:
<http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org>

Will Cook's Carolina Nature.
Click on Birding & Triangle Birder's Guide:
<http://tbg.carolinanature.com/>

Sunday "Morning After" Birding!

Jordan Lake Spring Bird Count

Looking for more birding activity after the CBC programs? Then you're invited to join Triangle birders for the Jordan Lake Spring Bird Count.

Pre-registration is required by April 20 so those interested can be assigned to regular counters and arrangements confirmed. To participate, contact Carol Chelette, 919-383-2364 or cncbrdr@yahoo.com

Raleigh Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1, 21: Eno River State Park

With 4,131 acres of rugged and varied Piedmont terrain, a variety of migratory birds can be expected. The centerpiece of the park is the Eno River and its chain of shallow and rocky riffles and pools. This 1 ¼ mile walk will pass through old fields, lawn, forest, and riparian habitats creating opportunities to see a diversity of birds. 31 warbler species alone have been recorded in the park, and Kentucky, Prothonotary and Hooded Warbler are possible along with Scarlet Tanager. Moderate, restrooms available.

Trips 2, 23: Mid-Pines Road & Historic Yates Mill County Park

Readers of Carolinabirds will recognize Mid-Pines Road as a site for rarities in Wake County. The gravel road traverses NC State University agricultural research farm fields and barns where Bobolink has been found along with Eastern Meadowlark, Indigo Bunting and sparrows. The road crosses a creek with a nice riparian area that has also hosted an assortment of flycatchers. The fields along Mid-Pines Road border the 174-acre Yates Mill park that features the only gristmill (circa 1756) still standing in Wake County. The mill pond forms a wetland area at the upper end that provides good habitat for waterfowl, wading birds and songbirds, particularly during migration. A series of trails and boardwalks allows easy access and great views of the wetland area as well as the hardwood forest. Over 160 bird species have been documented in the park. Easy, restrooms available.

Trip 3: Bird Banding - Prairie Ridge Ecostation for Wildlife & Learning

Join John Gerwin, Curator of Birds, along with several assistants of the Museum of Natural Sciences for a morning of bird banding at Prairie Ridge, the Museum's outdoor classroom. The site consists of a 10-acre restored Piedmont prairie, several acres of planted hardwoods, a permanent pond, and vernal pools that are an additional attraction for wildlife. Mist nets are opened early in the morning so participants will be able to observe all phases of the banding procedure. Participants will also have the opportunity to enjoy Prairie Ridge's mowed loop trails, where American Goldfinch, Indigo Bunting, and sparrows are abundant, and pass several vernal pools through the

field of early successional hardwoods which often has Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, and some migrants. Another option is to use the outdoor classroom deck and watch the bird feeders for any notable visitors. Easy, restrooms available.

Trip 4: Lake Crabtree County Park & William B. Umstead State Park (Reedy Creek Lake Trail)

Only minutes from the hotel, Lake Crabtree Park is a versatile 735-acre recreation site with a 520-acre flood control lake that dominates the park. Trails pass through a variety of habitats offering outstanding birding opportunities during migration. Bald Eagle is likely, and Osprey are occasionally seen during migration and summer. Continuing on to the Reedy Creek portion of the 5,579-acre Umstead State Park, participants will explore the park trails, Crabtree Creek and Reedy Creek Lake in anticipation of finding woodpeckers and warblers. Dating back to the 1940s, Umstead Park is a treasure in the highly urbanized Triangle. This trip will focus on migrating and returning songbirds that nest in the park such as flycatchers, vireos, warblers and tanagers. Easy, restrooms available.

Trip 5: Discovering Durham's Birdy Secrets – West Ellerbe Creek Trail/17 Acre Wood & Sandy Creek Trail

Ellerbe Creek is a small urban woodland preserve and an excellent migrant trap that routinely hosts a variety of migrating warblers. With sightings of approximately 115 species, including 26 species of warblers, Ellerbe Creek is a good place to explore. This flat, paved trail extends eastward, passing through a rich patch of floodplain forest that includes the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association's 17-Acre Wood Preserve. The preserve's nature trails meander through moist floodplain forest and connect back to the main paved trail that follows the creek. The next stop is Sandy Creek Trail, another small but productive birding site worthy of exploration. In spring, the swampy area along the paved trail usually hosts Prothonotary Warblers and Wood Ducks, while the upland woods may host a few Wood Thrushes. Northern Rough-winged Swallows also may be seen at the pond. Easy, restrooms available at Sandy Creek.

Trip 6: Birding in the Footsteps of CBC Founders – Walnut Creek, Lake Raleigh & Lake Johnson

In the 1930s when the Brimley Brothers, Charlotte Hilton Green, and other CBC founders birded in Raleigh, it was often at Walnut Creek, Lake Raleigh and Lake Johnson. They birded in what were then undeveloped areas. Later, CBC member Dr. Tom Quay took many of his Ornithology students, John Fussell, Mike Tove, Harry LeGrand, John Connors, and others to these areas for his laboratories. This trip, while looking for migrating birds, will focus on the history and the changes to this area. Walnut Creek and the surrounding wetland has grown from a poor, neglected area to a Nature Center with access to Raleigh's award winning greenways where resident and migrant birds continue to find suitable habitat. The resident Red-shouldered Hawks are sure to greet birders on this trip. Lake Raleigh is now an integral part of NC State's Centennial Campus, but land has been preserved and continues to provide outdoor classroom experiences for biology classes. NCSU graduates among the group will be amazed at this progressive campus. If time permits, the trip will continue to Lake Johnson, a Raleigh park, that is now the most urbanized of the three historic birding sites. A nature trail surrounds the lake and gets considerable use, but the park continues to offer good habitat for Wood Thrush, Great-crested Flycatcher, Orchard Oriole and Eastern Kingbird. Our trip leader has birded in these areas since his college days with Dr. Quay and will provide great insight into changes over the years.

Easy, restrooms available.

Trip 7, 15: Mason Farm Biological Reserve

Mason Farm, possibly one of the most talked about birding locations in the Triangle, is a 367-acre tract managed by the NC Botanical Garden for long-term ecological research, teaching, and the quiet enjoyment of nature. Biologists have discovered a rich diversity of 216 species of birds and 800 species of plants. With migration and the approach of breeding season, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Field Sparrow, and Indigo Bunting are possibilities. The bottom-land forest swamp area of the preserve is home to Barred Owl, Pileated and Downy Woodpeckers, Wood Thrush, and Hooded and Kentucky Warblers. Vehicles must cross a small stream with no bridge to reach parking and access the Reserve. To learn more about the rich history and wildlife of the Reserve, read John Terres' *From Laurel Hill to Siler's Bog: The*

Walking Adventures of a Naturalist.

Easy, no restrooms at Mason Farm. Restrooms available at Botanical Garden Totten Center after 8 a.m.

Trip 8: NC Museum of Art Park and Audubon Gallery

The NC Museum of Art is surrounded by a 164 acre art-and-nature park. Inside the original building is a gallery devoted to America's greatest nature artist, John James Audubon. The Museum's original, complete Audubon collection, recently treated to restore its condition, is displayed with bird specimens on loan from the Museum of Natural Sciences. After examining a selection of the pieces for their artistic, ornithological, and historical value with the former curator, you will venture outdoors for a walk along the easy trails of the park. Along the way through fields and forest habitats, we will visit the resident bluebirds and any other spring species present. Surprises in the form of nature-inspired sculptures are installed at strategic points on the trails. These include art you can go inside of, art that moves, and art that responds to the environment, including the memorable *Cloud Chamber for the Trees and Sky*. Easy, restrooms available.

Trip 9, 17: Swift Creek Greenway & Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve

Down the hill and across Swift Creek from Hemlock Bluffs is a greenway that offers excellent birding opportunities with a different perspective from the bluffs. We'll take a walk along the greenway and explore Hemlock Bluffs. More than 130 bird species, including 28 warblers, have been documented at this 150-acre nature preserve in southern Cary. It is particularly well known for excellent birding opportunities during spring migration. There are trails with a system of overlooks along the bluffs and boardwalks that provide vantage points along Swift Creek opposite the greenway. The overlooks offer exceptional tree-top looks at migrants. The upland trail moves through mature oak-hickory forest that supports Ovenbird, tanagers, and Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos. The floodplain loop trail holds the possibility of flycatchers, Wood Thrush, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Easy, restrooms available at Hemlock Bluffs.

Trip 10: Bird Collections, Museum of Natural Sciences

From seabirds to mountain birds, from Carolina

(Continued on page 6)

Raleigh Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

(Continued from page 5)

Chickadee to Carolina Parakeet, the bird collection at the Museum of Natural Sciences holds the evidence of North Carolina's rich bird heritage. John Gerwin, Curator of Birds, and Brian O'Shea, Bird Collections Manager, will provide a tour of the bird collection that is housed in the lower level of the Museum building in downtown Raleigh. Not open to the public, this is a rare opportunity to see the collection and learn how specimens are used more than ever in today's changing climatic, scientific, political and physiographic environment. The collection consists of more than 23,000 specimens, including study skins, skeletons, eggs, nests, tissues, spread wings, and a variety of taxidermy mounts for over 1000 species, including a few hundred from the 1800s. Collections staff will demonstrate making a study skin and discuss how you might add to the collection for birds you find in the wild. A variety of the cabinets will be opened to show what is inside, and discuss why. Bring cameras and questions. No eating/drinking in the collections space. Easy, restrooms available.

Trip 11, 25: Howell Woods

This trip requires a 1:15 drive from the hotel, but it is well worth the time. Located in a rural area along the Neuse River, more than 170 species of birds have been documented at this unique 2,856 acre property that is actively managed for the benefit of wildlife, conservation education and outdoor recreation. There are more than 25 miles of unpaved roads and trails, and the site is dominated by over 1,600 acres of bottomland forest along the river. There are also longleaf pine woodlands, a variety of mixed hardwood/pine forests, and abundant early successional habitats. Breeding species include Mississippi Kite, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, a variety of wood warblers, Summer Tanager and Orchard Oriole, among others. Easy, restrooms available at entrance. Must bring own food, water and snacks.

Trip 12, 26 : Jordan Lake Tour

Fed by the Haw River, the 46,768 acres of Jordan Lake, with 150 miles of shoreline, make it a popular destination for Triangle birders. The lake is a great place for viewing Bald Eagle, and in spring large numbers of migrating songbirds often congregate in

the forests adjacent to the lake. With six sites on the NC Birding Trail around the lake and other public lands that are also available for birding, this field trip is designed to explore the lake through the eyes of some of the Triangle's most experienced Jordan Lake birders. Whether soaring eagles or skulking Wood Thrush, you're sure to enjoy the tour of Jordan Lake and learn about those special birding sites and birds you read about so often on Carolinabirds. Easy, restrooms available at some sites. Must bring own food, water and snacks.

Trip 13, 27: Falls Lake Tour

Falls Lake was created in 1981 as a flood control project on the Neuse River. The resulting 12,000-acre lake is both the primary water supply for Raleigh and a recreation destination. Public lands around the lake host seven NC Birding Trail sites as well as a portion of the statewide Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Diverse habitats from open water to woodlands, sandy beaches to successional fields, makes Falls Lake an excellent destination for birds and birders. This all-day trip is designed to explore the best birding spots around the lake with experienced Falls Lake birders. Migration season always brings a few unexpected species, so don't be surprised if a rarity is found on this field trip! Easy, restrooms available at some sites. Must bring own food, water and snacks.

Trip 14: Birds, Botany and Butterflies

This trip covers a lot of territory and is not a hard-core birding trip but rather a leisurely glimpse of the region for anyone interested in natural history. Lots of time will be spent botanizing, looking at butterflies, dragonflies, and of course birds. Emphasis will be on sites close to the Cape Fear and Deep Rivers and other stops not listed here will be at the discretion of the trip leader. Starting at White Pines Nature Preserve, home to the most easterly known population of White Pine in the state, participants will hike the preserve, botanizing along the way. White Pines is located at the confluence of the Deep and Rocky Rivers and has steep, rocky terrain and bluffs along the rivers. Continuing on, the trip will head to Jordan Lake dam to explore the hiking trail in the woods just below the dam to check for waterbirds. From there, this mean-

(Continued on page 9)

CBC Raleigh Meeting Registration Form

May 4 - 5, 2012

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (____) _____

Evening phone (____) _____

Email _____

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-member) _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Friday Buffet Dinner (each) _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Trip 29 Canoe/Kayak (each)** _____ x \$36 = \$ _____

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes above.

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip. Meeting registration at the door costs \$30.

I release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

**Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:
CBC, 6236 Teal St. Unit 8-D, Wilmington, NC 28403**

Please note that Sunday April 29, 2011 is the last date for any refunds for registration or dinner cancellations. Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary (contact info is on the back page of this newsletter). If you have to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

➡ Free tickets to the Saturday Dessert Social & Weidensaul Talk are limited. If you plan to attend, indicate the number of tickets you will require: _____ (number must not exceed registrants listed on this form)

****If you registered for the Saturday Trip 29 Canoe/Kayak, note number of participants below:**

Canoe _____ - Paddling Partner Name _____

Kayak _____

Make Your Plans Now to Meet Scott Weidensaul at the 75th Anniversary Meeting!



Living on the Wind: The Miracle of Bird Migration

Since the dawn of human imagination, we have been spellbound by the migration of birds, where even the smallest species may traverse the immensities of space the way we

cross the street. New research continually expands our understanding of where birds travel and their migratory feats. But while the populations of many migratory birds are in drastic decline, there are many things we can do to save them. Naturalist and author Scott Weidensaul explores the wonder and mechanics of migration and the simple, effective ways we can preserve them, from what we plant in our gardens to what we pour into our morning mug of coffee.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemi-*

sphere with Migratory Birds, and Return to Wild America: A Yearlong Search for the Continent's Natural Soul. His newest book, *The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery and Endurance in Early America*, has just been published. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for *Audubon Magazine*. He lives in the mountains of eastern Pennsylvania where he studies the migration of hawks, owls and hummingbirds.

Make your plans now to hear Scott's talk at the Raleigh Meeting Saturday evening by using the registration form on page 7.

Executive Committee Changes

Please welcome Karyl Gabriel as Western NC VP, taking the reins from Dwayne Martin who "retires" after many years of service.

Also please welcome Michael McCloy who assumes the NC Member-at-Large position vacated by Katherine Higgins when she took over the role of HQ Secretary.

Welcome New Members!

Karen Anderson Greensboro, NC	Debi McGuinn and Dave Robbins Durham, NC	Gene and Gail Stephens Bluffton, SC	Brian O'Shea Raleigh, NC	Isabel Reddy Bahama, NC
Deborah Boots Franklin, NC	Anne Miller Mac McGee Raleigh, NC	Ann Truesdale Hollywood, SC	Suzanne Poe Cary, NC	Virna Saenz Raleigh, NC
Shun and Priss Endo Wilmington, NC	Jim Pugh Charlotte, NC	Randy Whittington Garner, NC	Connie Raper Durham, NC	Penny Soares Huntersville, NC
Steve and Jane Gantt Morganton, NC	Elizabeth Swarcok Jacksonville, NC	Wild Birds Unlimited Hickory, NC	Joanne and Guy Stile Little River, SC	Gretchen Schramm and Kathleen McLeod Wilmington, NC
John Kester Georgetown, SC	Michael Webster Columbia, SC	David and Gail Youngblood Summerville, SC	Holly Jordan Hillsborough, NC	<i>Deceased Member:</i>
Ric Porter Fort Mill, SC	Anne & Grant O'Neal Raleigh, NC	Karin Cook Buena Park, CA	Lauren Morgan Carolina Beach, NC	Sybil Mack
		Barbara Hall Wilmington, NC	Brian Murphy and Sheree Davis Durham, NC	

Raleigh Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

(Continued from page 6)

dering trip will work east down NC 42 to Corinth, and then Buckhorn Road to the Cape Fear River, for birds, butterflies, dragonflies and other critters. Turning back north along Christian Chapel Church Road (which had Bachman's Sparrows 15 years ago), there will be a brief stop to check out Harris Lake. Moderate, restrooms available in some locations. Must bring own food, water and snacks. Parking is limited at some locations so carpooling is essential for this trip.

Trip 16: Stagecoach Road and Nearby Waterfowl Impoundments

Stagecoach Road, southeast of Durham and just 15 minutes from our hotel, is a good starting point for exploring the woods and wetlands at the edge of Jordan Lake. We'll start with what's called the Eagle Spur Rail-Trail, which follows a former railroad bed for a little more than 2 miles through thick bottomland forest to the shore of the lake. Along the way we'll expect to find a variety of woodpeckers, thrushes, and warblers, as well as the waterbirds of the lake. Time permitting, we will also visit one or two of the nearby waterfowl impoundments, where waders have nested in the past. Easy, no convenient restrooms.

Trip 18: Duke Forest

With over 7,000 acres of land, Duke Forest provides extensive teaching, research and recreational opportunities along its network of roads and fire trails. From clear cut research plots to mature oak-hickory stands, creeks and field edges, Duke Forest provides many excellent birding opportunities. Migration is a great time to explore the forest for migrants as well as residents. Creek crossings throughout the forest can be a great location for waterthrush and others. Easy, no restrooms available.

Trip 19: Bolin Creek

Bolin Creek meanders through Chapel Hill and Carrboro and provides sometimes surprisingly wild and natural habitat. A portion of the land along the creek has been used as a sewer line easement, but a flat, paved trail called the Bolin Creek Greenway makes a pleasant walk with lots of birds possible in the brushy vegetation. Another section of Bolin Creek, heavily forested, has been protected by the Town of Carrboro and the University of North Carolina for

wildlife and recreation. If time permits, we will explore a couple of the trails through the forests and along the creek. Easy, restrooms available at one end of the Bolin Creek Greenway.

Trip 20: Schenck Forest and William B. Umstead State Park

Schenck Forest is a 245-acre forest managed for timber production and wildlife habitat by NC State University, College of Natural Resources. A visit provides easy access to view a variety of tree stand types and ages. Schenck attracts migrating songbirds, while nesting Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak and Ovenbird may have already returned in various sections of the site. The north and east sides of Schenck Forest are bordered by pasture, where American Kestrel and Eastern Meadowlark are common. Continuing on, the Crabtree Creek side of Umstead State Park will be visited. Hiking trails, small lakes and several miles of creeks offer a variety of different habitats to explore for residents and migrants. Easy, restrooms available.

Trip 22: Birds in Art through the Ages and Around the World, Museum of Art

Birds have inspired artists since the Egyptians conceived the sun god as a high-flying falcon. This mostly-indoor tour of the NC Museum of Art visits both the Audubon Gallery in the original facility and the worldwide collection in the spectacular recent building. You will search for birds that range from symbols of freedom and power or wings of angels to astonishingly accurate plumages in paintings dating from Renaissance France, Baroque Flanders, Holland and Spain. The birds will be viewed as both art and observations of nature. Then we will cross the connecting plaza to the Audubon Gallery in the other building. See the description for Trip 8. Audubon led an adventurous, pioneering existence that can serve as a great chapter in American history. Whether camping with Osage Indians, dining with Andrew Jackson, or hawking his work to the kings of England and France, Audubon's life was momentous. His Double-Elephant Folio original edition is considered the greatest achievement in American publishing. Easy, restrooms available.

(Continued on page 10)

Raleigh Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

(Continued from page 9)

Trip 24: Bond Park

Bond Park in Cary is one of the largest municipal parks in Wake County. Like an oasis in the midst of the city, the park design preserves the environment and offers opportunities for many types of recreation as well as birding. Whether walking the loop trail that surrounds the lake, other trails throughout the park, or simply meandering through the woods, a number of special bird species have been found in the park as you've likely seen posted on Carolinabirds. Now if the Barred Owls will just make an appearance for this field trip?! Easy, restrooms available.

Trip 28: Raven Rock State Park

Raven Rock, the bluff for which this park is named, is exceptionally tall for the Piedmont, with an elevation of over 100 feet above the Cape Fear River. The park's unique bluffs are representative of its location in the fall zone, separating the Piedmont region's more resistant rocks from the sediments and softer rocks of the coastal plain. The habitats in the park include maturing, successional communities representative of the eastern Piedmont, as well as a number of unusual natural communities derived from the fall zone interface. This trip will focus on the Campbell Creek Trail for about a 4-mile roundtrip hike to look for Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed (and possibly Yellow-throated) Vireos, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Parula, and a full assortment of warblers. Pileated Woodpecker, Broad-winged Hawk, and Bald Eagle are also possibilities. If time permits and there is interest, the Raven Rock Loop Trail can also be hiked. It travels through a hardwood forest on its 1-mile trip to the park's centerpiece, Raven Rock. Wooden stairs down the face of the river bluff lead to the base of Raven Rock where the river bank provides a place to examine the area beneath the overhang. The park is approximately an hour's drive from Raleigh. Moderate, restrooms available. Must bring own food, water and snacks.

Trip 29: Jordan Lake for Eagles – by Canoe & Kayak

Birding by canoe and kayak is what Ginger Travis enjoys most -- and has been doing on spring bird

counts since 1999. Ginger will guide this trip on her regular Chapel Hill count route. This all-day trip requires careful planning and has some constraints, so please read carefully if you are interested.

Eagles have congregated at the north end of Jordan Lake almost since the moment the lake filled in 1982. Since the late 1990s eagles have nested near the Mason Point peninsula. Our destination is the Morgan Creek side of the peninsula, 4 miles north of the Farlington Point boat ramps, our point of departure. May is a great time to see both adults and newly fledged youngsters. Besides eagles we should also see Red-headed Woodpeckers, Yellow-throated Warblers, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Prothonotary Warbler, and other cavity nesters. King Rails are a long shot but we might hear some.

The best way to reach the birds and cover a lot of shoreline is by paddling. Long-time local outfitter Frog Hollow Outdoors will provide kayaks and canoes – please indicate your choice when you sign up. Kayaks are easier to paddle but you may prefer a canoe if you have a regular canoeing partner. The roundtrip will be 8 miles over open water. We'll move slowly as we look for birds, but this is not a trip for first-time paddlers. Please be sure you can do the distance. The weather is usually good, but if winds are forecast to be 10 mph or above, the trip is subject to a change of location or cancellation. Also, be aware that there is no shade; if the sun is out we'll be in it all day.

If canoeing, you must designate your paddling partner on the registration form. We will not assign paddling partners. We may have an additional local paddler/bird spotter. Frog Hollow also will provide one guide.

Bring water, food, hat, jacket, footwear that can get wet, sunscreen, and a smile. All participants will be required to wear a life vest (provided by Frog Hollow). Moderate to strenuous. No restrooms but plenty of bushes along the way!

Cost: \$36 per person (based on 10 participants, more if trip does not fill)

Limit: 10 people



Birder's Book Review

Steve Shultz

Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels of North America: A Photographic Guide

Steve N. G. Howell

ISBN 978-0-691-14211-1, 520 pages, cloth

2012, Princeton University Press, \$45.00

This is a book that could cost you some money. Because after reading it, you are going to want to see some tubenoses. And to see tubenoses, and see them well, you normally have to take a boat ride. And at \$4.00 a gallon for diesel, boat rides are not inexpensive. But you'll probably find it worth the while, especially after an up-close visit with a Black-capped Petrel off the East Coast. And then you will want to fly to the West Coast and visit with a Black-footed Albatross. And then you will want to go again. But you'll probably love every moment of it, even if the guy beside you is adding his own contribution to the chum line.

Steve Howell's new volume devoted to the petrels, albatrosses, and storm-petrels of North America provides 520 pages that examine 70 species of tubenoses that may be encountered in North American waters. While prior field guides provide, in some cases excellent, drawings or photos of pelagic birds, most have very little space devoted to the behaviors and flight styles that are so often used to distinguish one tubenose from another. Howell's tome dives deeply into the field identification of each species (or identifiable sub-species, some of which may be elevated to species level in the future). Each species rates multiple pages with a discussion of taxonomy, status and distribution, an identification summary followed by detailed field identification discussion, comparison with similar species, discussion of habitat and behavior, and discussion of molt and plumage differences between young and adult birds.

While the text provides many hints to correct field identification, the photos are what will likely absorb much of the reader's time and attention. Many were taken on pelagic trips in North Carolina, and some Carolina Bird Club members may have been on the boat at the time the photos were taken! Each species rates multiple photos, usually of birds both in flight

and on the water.

Where pertinent, differences in plumage are noted and exemplified with amazingly clear photographs.

As Howell notes in the informative forward to the book, recent advances in photography, especially the ability to use increasingly sophisticated digital cameras, mean that obtaining photos of the variety

and quality presented in the book were likely not possible not that many years ago. In this sense, the book is timely, but it also comes at a time where increasing interest in tubenoses reveals complex and in some cases unsettled taxonomy.

Howell examines the taxonomy of each group of birds and provides current status and possible future changes at the species level. Did you know that we may have multiple species of "Cory's Shearwater" off the Carolina coast? Or that "Band-rumped Storm-Petrel" may represent multiple species that may be found on local pelagic trips? If you want brush up on separating Cory's and "Scopoli's" Shearwaters, or separate a "Grant's" Band-rumped from a "Madeiran" Band-rumped, this is a book you will want to lay your hands on.

In many "field guides" birders flip straight to the plates or photos. In this book you will want to spend some time on the 49-page introduction, an excellent piece of writing that provides a framework for the remainder of the book. And while you are enjoying the front part of the book, be sure to note that two of the collaborators are the Carolinas' own Brian Patteson and Kate Sutherland! The book also acknowledges a well-known up-and-coming young birder from North Carolina, Ali Ayoob! So grab a copy and then make a reservation for a pelagic trip this spring, I think you'll be glad you did!



Petrels,
Albatrosses &
Storm-Petrels of
North America

A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE



The Urban Rusty Blackbirds of Conestee: Research Summary 2009-2011

Patti Newell

When the University of Georgia (UGA) Rusty Blackbird project was first getting started in the winter of 2009, the original goal was to capture and study Rusty Blackbirds in their natural wetland habitats in South Carolina's ACE Basin. However, the birds were late migrating, and my technician and I were having a difficult time locating the blackbirds in known hotspots. The sites where Rusties were actually confirmed were closed for hunting, and I was not permitted into many of the best sites until after mid-February. Since Rusties start migrating from the wintering grounds in mid-March, this would only give me one month to study the birds, which is quite a limited time for a full investigation of the wintering ecology of a bird species. I (and my research advisors) were starting to get frustrated and worried that we would not find any suitable sites.

Then in early February, after a month of trying and failing to confirm birder sightings, visiting previous Rusty Blackbird locations and turning up nothing, and being turned away from good sites with Rusties, Nathan Dias put me in contact with Paul Serridge. Paul had reported large numbers of Rusty Blackbirds near Greenville, SC. My advisor (Dr. Russ Greenberg), my technician (Desiree Narango), and I raced up to Greenville and met Paul early the next morning at the local Waffle House. After a poached egg and a mug of coffee, we all headed to Lake Conestee Nature Park.

That cold morning it didn't take long to count as few as 700 and perhaps even 1000 Rusty Blackbirds as they flew from the wetland, over the BP gas station, to a residential neighborhood with a small grove of pecan trees. We watched as the Rusties descended to the side of the road and picked up crushed pieces of pecan, sometimes the size of their heads. And then they would all burst to the tops of the trees, and in small sub-flocks of around 20 birds, would fly back and forth between the wetlands and the residential area.

Russ immediately recommended I shift my focus to this one flock of urban Rusty Blackbirds. Reluctantly, I let go of the idea of studying Rusties in their natural habitat and recognized that Lake Conestee was the

best option for this highly mobile, difficult-to-study bird.

Over the three years of studying the birds we have found they do a similar thing every winter. They are even so ritualized that we can predict what parts of the neighborhood they will use at what parts of the season. In the early part of the winter, Rusties spend their time predominately behind the BP station, and after all the pecans have fallen from the trees and are crushed by vehicles, the birds shift their focus to the back of the neighborhood, up on Spring Street, where they eat acorns chewed apart by squirrels. This tree mast seems to provide Rusties with the fat they need to endure extreme weather events. The birds, with their small bills evolved for invertebrate foraging, need other mechanisms like squirrels, deer, vehicles, or grackles and jays to break the tough acorn or pecan shell first.

It is likely that because wetlands freeze at unpredictable frequencies, Rusty Blackbirds depend on an optimal mixture of invertebrates from wetlands and tree mast. Understanding the mixture of specialized feeding requirements of these birds might provide insight into the characteristics that underlie winter "hot spots" in the species' distribution.

Athens, Georgia is another urban hotspot for Rusty Blackbirds. In 2011, we began studying a flock of birds in North Athens in tandem with the Conestee flock and found that the birds have similar habitats to those in Conestee. They fly back and forth from wetlands in Sandy Creek Nature Center to a number of favorite pecan trees and pecan groves in north Athens. The Carolina Bird Club generously donated funding to the ongoing Rusty Blackbird research project at Lake Conestee Nature Park in 2009 and 2011. CBC gave money for transmitters to be able to follow Rusty Blackbirds throughout the day. From 2009 to 2011 we captured 180 Rusty Blackbirds in Conestee, and in 2011, we captured 54 blackbirds in Athens, Georgia. A subset of 17 Rusties was fitted with radio-transmitters. We obtained 1,560 data points on

(Continued on page 13)

The Urban Rusty Blackbirds of Conestee

(Continued from page 12)

location from December 31 to March 16 in six patch types; wetlands (832), residential lawns (339), pecan residential (333), forested upland (28), agriculture (10), and roosts (19).

We learned valuable information about Rusty Blackbirds that was not previously known from being able to continuously follow them. One of the major findings was that landscape use of Rusties in residential areas can be explained by the amount of precipitation in the last three days, the amount of precipitation at the time of observation, and time from sunrise.

Rusty Blackbirds were 1.5 times more likely to forage in pecan residential, and 1.4 times in residential areas over wetlands, with each 1 mm increase in the amount of rainfall in the previous three days. They were also 1.9 and 2.8 times more likely to forage in pecan resi-

dential and residential areas, respectively, with each millimeter increase in precipitation at the time of the observation. Rusty Blackbirds were also less likely to be detected in residential areas with increased time from sunrise. This could mean that during rainfall events, residential areas provide more resources than wetlands.

When I first began this project I was nervous about studying this bird in urban areas. I have since come to the viewpoint that this bird should be prioritized in terms of conservation since it appears that it could be quite easy to recover their populations. With increases in the human population, conversion of natural habitats to urban landscapes will only increase. Perhaps Rusty Blackbirds are the ideal species to encourage to live among us in our nature park wetlands and adjoining pecan groves.

Advertisement



ECUADOR July 2012 *The Birds of the Cloud Forests*



CBC member Susan Campbell will be co-leading a trip to Ecuador with founder of EcoQuest Travel, Dave Davenport. The main portion of the trip will be two weeks in a variety of tropical forests, most of which will be at elevation. In addition, an optional week extension in the Amazon Basin immediately follows the main trip. There is incredible avian diversity in Ecuador, and hummingbird species diversity is simply awesome. Furthermore, the trip plans stays at wonderful accommodations along the way, most of which have an array of sugar water and fruit feeders.

Our focus will be to find as many hummingbirds as possible. We look forward to finding Booted-racket-tail, Empress Brilliant, Ecuadorian Hillstar, Great Sapphirewing, Violet-tailed Sylph, Rainbow-bearded Thornbill, Velvet-purple Coronet as well as the amazing Sword-billed Hummingbird. But we will certainly not ignore the tanagers, cotingas, toucans, warblers, parrots and others. And the group will surely come across an array of non-avian wildlife as well. With both Dave and our local guides, we'll take it all in and make the most of our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

At elevation, the group will visit locations on both the western and eastern slopes of the Andes. Papallacta Pass, at 13,700 feet, will be the highest point of the trip. The climate high up in Ecuador will be a welcome change from mid-summer here in the Carolinas! Of course, we'll also spend some time around the capitol city of Quito as well. The extension will involve an additional week during which we will travel down the Napo River. The group will begin at the remote outpost of Coca in search of Zigzag Heron, Sunbittern, macaws, Hoatzin and a host of trogon, toucan, tanager species, to name just a few.

For more information, including travel itinerary, please contact Susan (910-949-3207 or susan@ncaves.com) as soon as possible.

Please note this is not a Carolina Bird Club-sponsored trip, information is provided as a service to members.



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